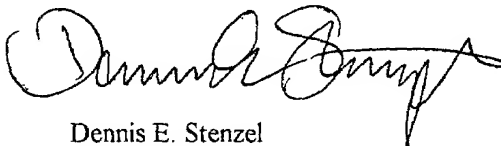


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment constitutes an effort by applicant to harmonize the claims with the Article 35 (2) statement in the International Preliminary Examination Report.

Respectfully submitted,

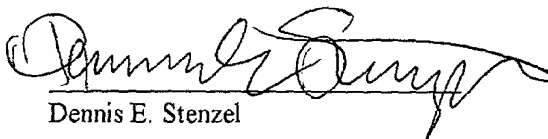


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 11, 2002.

Dated: 2/11/02

  
Dennis E. Stenzel

## APPENDIX

### Claims

1. (amended) Device for concentrating and/or purifying macromolecules in a liquid by filtration through a membrane comprising:

- (a) at least one concentration chamber adapted to receive and contain a liquid containing macromolecules to be processed, each of said at least one concentration chamber being provided with at least one first aperture;
- (b) at least one filtrate chamber provided with at least one second aperture arranged over said at least one first aperture;
- (c) at least one membrane having a feed side and a permeate side, said membrane being fluid-tight along its periphery and situated over at least one of said first and second apertures and separating said at least one concentration chamber and said at least one filtrate chamber;
- (d) elastic gasket means arranged around at least one of said first and second apertures and in contact with at least one side of said at least one membrane;
- (e) membrane support means on said at least one filtrate chamber for supporting the permeate side of said at least one membrane; and

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- (f) a pressure-resistant sleeve arranged around said at least one concentration chamber, said gasket means, said at least one membrane and said at least one filtrate chamber, said sleeve exerting and maintaining sufficient compressive forces to seal said at least one membrane fluid-tight against at least one of said chambers.
- 4. (amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said gasket means is annular [an O-ring].
- 9. (amended) A method for manufacturing a device for concentrating and/or purifying macromolecules in a liquid by means of filtration through at least one membrane which device comprises at least one concentration chamber for a liquid sample to be processed provided with at least one first aperture, at least one filtrate chamber provided with at least one second aperture, at least one membrane that is fluid-tight along its periphery and situated over at least one of said first and second apertures so as to separate said at least one concentration and filtrate chambers, said method comprising the following steps:
  - (a) arranging elastic gasket means around at least one of said apertures;

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- (b) covering at least one of said apertures with at least one membrane, each having a feed side and a permeate side with its feed side arranged against [at] said at least one concentration chamber and its permeate side against said at least one filtrate chamber;
- (c) assembling said chambers so as to align said at least one first aperture over said at least one second aperture; and
- (d) fitting a pressure-resistant sleeve around said at least one concentration chamber, said gasket means, said at least one membrane and said at least one filtrate chamber so as to create and maintain compressive forces sufficiently high to seal said at least one membrane fluid-tight against at least one of said concentration and filtrate chambers.